

Second College Edition

**The
American Heritage
Dictionary**

Words that are believed to be registered trademarks have been checked with authoritative sources. No investigation has been made of common-law trademark rights in any word, because such investigation is impracticable. Words that are known to have current registrations are shown with an initial capital and are also identified as trademarks. The inclusion of any word in this Dictionary is not, however, an expression of the Publisher's opinion as to whether or not it is subject to proprietary rights. Indeed, no definition in this Dictionary is to be regarded as affecting the validity of any trademark.

Copyright © 1982, 1985 by Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system without the prior written permission of Houghton Mifflin Company unless such copying is expressly permitted by federal copyright law. Address inquiries to Permissions, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2 Park Street, Boston, MA 02108.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Main entry under title:

American Heritage dictionary.

Rev. ed. of: American Heritage dictionary of the English language. New college ed. c1976.

I. English language—Dictionaries. I. Morris, William. 1913—

PE1625.A54 1982 423 82-9346

ISBN 0-395-32943-4

ISBN 0-395-32944-2 (thumb index)

ISBN 0-395-33959-6 (deluxe edition)

Manufactured in the United States of America

sider (a quality, for example) without reference to a particular example or object. 4. (äb'strakt'). To summarize. —*idiom.* in the abstract. Apart from actual substance or experience. [ME < Lat. *abstractus*, p.p. of *abstrahere*, to draw away: *ab-*, away + *trahere*, to draw.] —*ab-strac'ter* *n.* —*ab-strac'tly* *adv.* —*ab-strac'tness* *n.*

ab-strac'ted (äb-sträk'tid, äb'sträk'-) *adj.* 1. Removed or separated. 2. Deep in thought; preoccupied; meditative. —*ab-strac'ted-ly* *adv.* —*ab-strac'ted-ness* *n.*

Synonyms: *abstracted, absorbed, distraught, absent-minded.* These adjectives apply to absence of normal awareness of one's surroundings. *Abstracted* implies complete and pleasurable mental involvement in the object of thought. *Distraught* implies mental anxiety that makes concentration extremely difficult. *Absent-minded* suggests the making of trivial errors because the mind is straying from the matter at hand.

abstract expressionism *n.* A school of painting that flourished after World War II until the early 1960's, characterized by the exclusion of representational content.

ab-strac'tion (äb-sträk'shän, äb'-) *n.* 1. The act or process of removing or separating: *the abstraction of metal from ore.* 2. a. The act or process of separating the inherent qualities or properties of something from the actual physical object or concept to which they belong. b. A product of this process; a general idea or word representing a physical concept. 3. Preoccupation; absent-mindedness. 4. An abstract work of art.

ab-strac'tion-ism (äb-sträk'shän-niz'm) *n.* The theory and practice of abstract art. —*ab-strac'tion-ist* *n.*

ab-strac'tive (äb-sträk'tiv, äb'-) *adj.* Of or derived by abstraction.

abstract of title *n.* A brief history of the transfers of a piece of land, including all claims that could be made against it. **ab-struse** (äb-strūs', äb'-) *adj.* Difficult to understand; recondite. [Lat. *abstrusus*, hidden, p.p. of *abstrudere*, to hide: *ab-*, away + *trudere*, to push.] —*ab-struse-ly* *adv.* —*ab-struse-ness* *n.*

ab-surd (äb-sürd', -zürd') *adj.* 1. Ridiculously incongruous or unreasonable. 2. Of, pertaining to, or manifesting the view that there is no order or value in human life or in the universe; meaningless. 3. Of or relating to absurdism or the absurd. —*n.* 1. The quality or condition of existing in a meaningless and irrational universe in which an individual's life has no meaning or purpose. 2. The literary genre that deals with the theme of an absurd universe. [Fr. *absurde* < Lat. *absurdus*.] —*ab-surd-i-ty* (-sür'di-tē, -zür'-), *ab-surd-ness* *n.* —*ab-surd-ly* *adv.*

absurd theater *n.* Theater of the absurd.

a-bu-ti-a also **a-bou-ti-a** (ä-bōō'tē-ä, ä-byōō'-) *n.* Loss or impairment of the ability to decide or act independently. [NLat. < Gk. *aboulia*, indecision: *a-*, without + *boulē*, will.] —*a-bu'tic* (-lik) *adj.*

a-bun-dance (ä-bün'däns) *n.* 1. A great or plentiful amount. 2. Fullness to overflowing: "My thoughts . . . are from the abundance of my heart" (De Quincey). 3. Affluence; wealth.

a-bun-dant (ä-bün'dänt) *adj.* 1. In plentiful supply; ample. 2. Abounding with; rich: *a region abundant in wildlife.* [ME *abundant* < OFr. *abundant* < Lat. *abundans*, p.p. of *abundare*, to overflow. —see *ABOUND*.] —*a-bun'dant-ly* *adv.*

a-buse (ä-byōōz') *tr.v.* *a-bused, a-bus-ing, a-bus-es.* 1. a. To use wrongly or improperly; misuse. b. *Obs.* To trick or deceive. 2. To hurt or injure by maltreatment. 3. To assail with contemptuous, coarse, or insulting words; revile. —*n.* (ä-byōōs'). 1. Improper use or handling; misuse. 2. A corrupt practice or custom. 3. Physical maltreatment. 4. Insulting or coarse language. [ME *abusen* < OFr. *abuser* < *abus*, improper use < Lat. *abusus*, a using up, p.p. of *abuti*, to use up: *ab-*, away + *uti*, to use.] —*a-bus'er* *n.*

Synonyms: *abuse, misuse, mistreat, ill-treat, maltreat.* These verbs mean to treat a person or thing wrongfully or harmfully. *Abuse* applies to wrongful or unreasonable treatment by deed or word. *Misuse* stresses incorrect or unknowledgeable handling; it implies but does not emphasize harm. *Mistreat, ill-treat, and maltreat* all have the sense of inflicting injury, usually physical and often with intent to do harm. *Mistreat* may imply only negligence or lack of knowledge on the offender's part, but more often refers to harm inflicted deliberately. *Ill-treat* more specifically applies to harmful treatment of persons or animals. *Maltreat* implies rough handling.

a-bu-sive (ä-byōōs'iv, -ziv) *adj.* 1. Of, pertaining to, or characterized by abuse. 2. Wrongly or incorrectly used or treated. 3. Serving to abuse; insulting. —*a-bu'sive-ly* *adv.*

a-but (ä-büt') *v.* *a-but-ted, a-but-ting, a-but-s.* —*intr.* To touch at one end or side of something; lie adjacent. —*tr.* To border upon; be next to. [ME *abuten* < OFr. *abouter*, to border on: *a-*, to + *bout*, end.] —*a-but-ter* *n.*

a-bu-ti-lon (ä-byōōt'i-lön) *n.* Any of various shrubs or plants of the genus *Abutilon*, esp. the flowering maple. [NLat. *Abutilon*, genus name < Ar. *aubūtūn*.]

a-but-ment (ä-büt'mənt) *n.* 1. The act or process of abutting. 2. a. Something that abuts. b. The point of contact of two abutting objects or parts. 3. a. That part of a structure that bears the weight or pressure of an arch. b. A structure

that supports the end of a bridge. c. A structure that anchors the cables of a suspension bridge.

a-but-tals (ä-büt'talz) *pl.n.* The parts of a piece of land that abut against other property; boundaries.

a-buzz (ä-büz') *adj.* 1. Filled with a buzzing sound. 2. Filled or occupied with activity or talk.

ab-volt (äb'völt') *n.* A centimeter-gram-second electromagnetic unit of potential difference, equal to the potential difference between two points such that one erg of work must be performed to move a one-abcoulomb charge from one of the points to the other. It is equal to one hundred-millionth (10⁻⁸) of a volt.

abyss (ä-biz'm) *n.* An abyss. [ME *abime* < OFr. < LLat. *abyssus*. —see *ABYSS*.]

a-bys-mal (ä-biz'mäl) *adj.* 1. Unfathomable; extreme. 2. Of or resembling an abyss. —*a-bys-mal-ly* *adv.*

abyss (ä-bis') *n.* 1. a. The primeval chaos. b. The bottomless pit; hell. 2. An unfathomable abyss; a yawning gulf. 3. An immeasurably profound depth or void: *the vast abysses of space and time.* [LLat. *abyssus* < Gk. *abussos*, bottomless: *a-*, without + *bussos*, bottom.]

a-bys-sal (ä-bis'säl) *adj.* 1. Abyssmal. 2. Of or pertaining to the great depths of the oceans.

Ab-yss-ini-an cat (äb'i-sin'i-än) *n.* A short-haired cat of a breed developed from Near Eastern stocks, having a reddish-brown coat tipped with small black markings. [After *Abyssinia*, former name for Ethiopia.]

Ac The symbol for the element actinium.

ac- *pref.* Variant of *ad-* (sense 1). Used before *c, k,* and *q*.

-ac *suff.* Used to form adjectives from nouns: *ammoniac*. [NLat. *-acus, -adj.* suffix < Gk. *-akos*.]

a-ca-cia (ä-kä'shə) *n.* 1. Any of various chiefly tropical trees of the genus *Acacia*, having compound leaves and tight clusters of small yellow or white flowers. 2. Gum arabic. [Lat. < Gk. *akakia*.]

ac-a-deme (äk'-dəm') *n.* 1. The scholastic world or environment. 2. A scholar, teacher, or pedant. 3. A college or university. 4. Academic life. [Lat. *Academia*, the Academy.]

ac-a-de-mi-a (äk'-də-mē-ä) *n.* The academic world; academy. [NLat. < Lat. *Academia*, the Academy.]

ac-a-dem-ic (äk'-də-m'ik) *adj.* 1. Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of a school. 2. Relating to studies that are liberal or classical rather than technical or vocational. 3. Pertaining or belonging to a scholarly organization. 4. Scholarly to the point of being unaware of the outside world. 5. Based on formal education. 6. Formalistic or conventional. 7. Theoretical or speculative without a practical purpose or intention. 8. Without purpose or use because of being beyond the point of implementation. —*n.* A student or teacher. —*ac-a-dem-i-cal-ly* *adv.*

academic freedom *n.* Liberty to pursue and teach relevant knowledge and to discuss it freely without restriction from school or public officials or from other sources of influence.

ac-a-de-mi-cian (äk'-ä-də-mish'än, ä-käd'-ä) *n.* A member of an art, literary, or scientific academy or society.

ac-a-dem-i-cism (äk'-də-m'i-siz'm) also **ac-a-de-mism** (ä-käd'-miz'm) *n.* Traditional formalism, esp. when reflected in art.

ac-a-de-my (ä-käd'-ä-mē) *n., pl. -mies.* 1. A school for special instruction. 2. A secondary or college-preparatory school, esp. a private one. 3. An association of scholars. 4. *Academy.* A specified society of scholars or artists. 5. *Academy.* a. Platonism. b. The disciples of Plato. [Lat. *Academia* < Gk. *Akademia*, the school where Plato taught.]

A-ca-di-an (ä-kä'dē-än) *n.* 1. One of the early French settlers of Acadia or their descendants. —*A-ca-di-an* *adj.*

a-ca-jou (ä-kə-zhō') *n.* Mahogany, esp. when used for making furniture. [Fr., cashew < Port. *caju*.]

acantho- or **acanth-** *pref.* Thorn; *acanthoid*. [Gk. *akanthos*, thorn plant < *akantha*, thorn.]

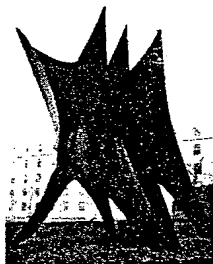
a-can-tho-ceph-a-li-an (ä-kän'thə-sēf'-ä-län) also **a-can-tho-ceph-a-lid** (-lid) *n.* Any of various parasitic worms of the phylum Acanthocephala, having a proboscis armed with hooked spines. [NLat. *Acanthocephala*, phylum name: *ACANTHO-* + Gk. *kephalē*, head.]

a-can-thoid (ä-kän'thoid') *adj.* Resembling a thorn or spine.

ac-an-thop-ter-yg-i-an (äk'-än-thöp'tə-rīj'-ē-än) *n.* A fish of the superorder Acanthopterygii, which includes fishes having spiny fins, such as bass, perch, and mackerel. [NLat. *Acanthopterygii*, superorder name: *ACANTHO-* + Gk. *pterygion*, dim. of *pterus*, wing < *pteron*, feather.] —*ac-an-thop-ter-yg'i-an* *adj.*

a-can-thus (ä-kän'thas) *n., pl. -thus-es or -thi* (-thī'). 1. Any of various plants of the genus *Acanthus*, native to the Mediterranean region, having large, segmented, thistlelike leaves. 2. *Archit.* An ornament patterned after the leaves of the acanthus, used esp. on capitals of Corinthian columns. [NLat. *Acanthus*, genus name < Gk. *akanthos*, thorn plant < *akantha*, thorn.]

a-cap-ni-a (ä-käp'nē-ä) *n.* The absence of carbon dioxide in the blood and tissues. [NLat. < Lat. *acapnia*, without smoke (which contains carbon dioxide) < Gk. *akapnos*: *a-*, not + *kapnos*, smoke.]



abstractionism
"The Great Sail" by
Alexander Calder



Abyssinian cat



acanthus
Above: Acanthus leaves
Below: Capital of a
Corinthian column
showing acanthus motif

ä pat / ä pay / ä care / ä father / b bib / ch church / d deed / ē pet / ē be / f five / g gag / h hat / hw which / i pit / i pie / ir pier
j judge / k kick / l lid, needle / m mum / n no, sudden / ng thing / ð pot / ð toe / ð paw, for / oi noise / ou out / öo took / öö boot.

or to a distance; far away; saw it afar off. [ME *afar* < *on fer*, far and of *fer*, from *afar* < OE *feor*, far.]

a-fear'd (ă-fē'ərd) *adj.* Regional & Archaic. Afraid; frightened. [ME *afared* < OE *afæred*, p.p. of *afæran*, to frighten; *ā-* (intensive) + *færan*, to frighten < *fær*, fear.]

a-fe-brile (ă-fē-brīl, ă-fē-brāl) *adj.* Having no fever.

af-fa-ble (ăf'ə-bəl) *adj.* 1. Easy to speak to; amiable. 2. Mild; gentle; benign. [OFR. < Lat. *affabilis* < *affari*, to speak to; *ad-*, to + *fari*, to speak.] —**af-fa-bil'i-ty** *n.* —**af-fa-bly** *adv.*

af-fair (ə-fār) *n.* 1. Something done or to be done; business. 2. *affairs*. Transactions and other business matters: a man of affairs. 3. a. An occurrence, event, or matter. b. An object or contrivance: a first car that was a ramshackle affair. c. *affairs*. Personal effects. 4. A private matter; personal concern. 5. A matter causing scandal and controversy: the Dreyfus affair. 6. A love affair, esp. a brief one; liaison. [ME *afere* < OFr. *afaire* < *à faire*, to do.]

af-fect' (ə-fēkt') *tr.v.* -fect-ed, -fect-ing, -fects. 1. To have an influence on; bring about a change in. 2. To touch or move the emotions of. 3. To attack or infect, as a disease. —*n.* (ăf'ekt'). 1. *Psychol.* a. A feeling or emotion as distinguished from cognition, thought, or action. b. A strong feeling having active consequences. 2. *Obs.* A disposition, feeling, or tendency. [Lat. *afficere*, *affect*: *ad-*, to + *facere*, to do.] —**af-fect-less** *adj.*

Synonyms: affect, influence, impress, touch, move, strike. These verbs can all mean to produce a mental or emotional effect. To *affect* is to change a person's emotions in some usually specified way. *Influence* implies a degree of control over the thinking and actions, as well as the emotions, of another. To *impress* is to produce a marked, usually favorable, effect on the mind. *Touch* usually means to arouse a brief sense of pathos, whereas *move* suggests profound emotional effect capable of inciting action. *Strike* implies instantaneous mental response to a stimulus such as a sight or an idea.

Usage: *Affect* and *effect* have no senses in common. As a verb, *affect* is most commonly used in the sense of "to influence" (how smoking affects health). *Effect* means "to bring about or execute": layoffs designed to effect savings.

af-fect' (ə-fēkt') *tr.v.* -fect-ed, -fect-ing, -fects. 1. To simulate or imitate in order to make some desired impression; assume; feign. 2. a. To display a preference for. b. *Archaic*. To fancy; love. c. To tend to by nature; tend to assume: affect crystalline form. 3. To imitate; copy: "Spenser, in affecting the ancients, writ no language" (Jonson). [ME *afecten* < Lat. *affectare*, to strive after, freq. of *afficere*, to affect, influence.] —**af-fect'er** *n.*

af-fec-ta-tion (ăf'ek-tā-shən) *n.* 1. A show, pretense, or display. 2. An artificial behavior or mannerism adopted to impress others; affectedness. [Lat. *affectatio* < *affectare*, to strive after. —*see* **AFFECT'**.]

Synonyms: affectation, pose, air (and airs), mannerism. These nouns refer largely to personal attributes acquired as adornments to human character. An *affectation* is a little habit of speech or dress that the wearer has borrowed from his ideal, hoping to pass it off as genuinely his own. *Pose* denotes an attitude adopted with the aim of calling favorable attention to oneself. *Air*, meaning a distinctive but intangible quality, does not usually imply sham; *air of authority*; *air of a professor*. In the plural, however, it suggests affectation and snobbishness: put on airs. *Mannerism* denotes a peculiar trait or quirk that others find obtrusive and distracting.

af-fect-ed' (ə-fēkt'id) *adj.* 1. Acted upon, influenced, or changed. 2. Emotionally stirred or moved. 3. Infected or attacked, as by disease.

af-fect-ed' (ə-fēkt'id) *adj.* 1. Assumed or simulated to impress others. 2. Speaking or behaving in an artificial way to make a particular impression. 3. Disposed or inclined. —**af-fect-ed-ly** *adv.* —**af-fect-ed-ness** *n.*

af-fect-ing! (ə-fēkt'ing) *adj.* Evoking a usually strong emotional response; moving: an affecting spectacle. —**af-fect-ing-ly** *adv.*

af-fect-ing! (ə-fēkt'ing) *adj.* *Obs.* 1. Displaying love. 2. Feigning or pretending: "I never heard such a drawing, affecting rogue" (Shakespeare).

af-fec-tion (ə-fēk'shən) *n.* 1. A fond or tender feeling toward another. 2. Often *affections*. Feeling or emotion: an unbalanced state of affections. 3. Any pathological condition of the mind or body. 4. The act of influencing, affecting, or acting upon. 5. The state of being influenced or acted upon. 6. An attribute. 7. Mental disposition or tendency. [ME *afec-cioun* < OFr. *affection* < Lat. *affectio* < *afficere*, to affect, influence.] —**af-fec-tion-al** *adj.* —**af-fec-tion-al-ly** *adv.*

af-fec-tion-ate (ə-fēk'shə-nit) *adj.* 1. Having or showing fond feelings or affection; loving; tender. 2. *Obs.* Strongly or favorably disposed. —**af-fec-tion-ate-ly** *adv.* —**af-fec-tion-ate-ness** *n.*

af-fec-tive (ə-fēk'tiv) *adj.* 1. *Psychol.* Pertaining to or resulting from emotions or feelings rather than from thought. 2. Pertaining to or arousing affection or emotion; emotional.

af-fen-pin-scher (ăf'ən-pin'cher) *n.* Any of a breed of small

dogs of European origin, having dark, wiry, shaggy hair and a tufted muzzle. [G. *Affen*, monkey + *Pinscher*, terrier.]

af-fer-ent (ăf'ər-ent) *adj.* Directed toward a central organ or section, as nerves that conduct impulses from the periphery of the body inward to the spinal cord. [Lat. *afferens*, *affer-ent*, p.p. of *afferre*, to bring toward; *ad-*, toward + *ferre*, to bring.]

af-fi-ance (ə-fī'āns) *tr.v.* -anced, -ancing, -ances. To bind in a pledge of marriage; betroth. [OFR. *affiance* < *affier*, to trust to < Med. Lat. *affidare*: Lat. *ad-*, to + Lat. *fidus*, faithful.]

af-fi-ant (ə-fī'ant) *n.* Law. One who makes an affidavit. [OFR. p.p. of *affier*, to trust to. —*see* **AFFIANCE**.]

af-fi-da-vit (ăf-i-dā'vit) *n.* Law. A written declaration made under oath before a notary public or other authorized officer. [Med. Lat. *affidavi*, he has pledged < *affidare*, to pledge. —*see* **AFFIANCE**.]

af-fi-li-ate (ə-fī-lē-āt) *v.* -ated, -ating, -ates, —*tr.* 1. To adopt or accept as a subordinate associate. 2. To associate (oneself) as a subordinate, subsidiary, or member with. 3. To admit as one's own child; adopt. 4. Law. a. To determine the paternity of (an illegitimate child). b. To refer an illegitimate child to (its father). —*intr.* To associate or connect oneself: a group that decided to affiliate. —*n.* A person or organization associated with another in subordinate relationship. [Med. Lat. *affiliare*, *affiliari*, to adopt; *ad-*, to + *filus*, son.] —**af-fi-li-a-tion** *n.*

af-fine (ə-fīn') *adj.* 1. Of or pertaining to a mathematical transformation of coordinates that is equivalent to a translation, contraction, or expansion with respect to a fixed origin and fixed coordinate system. 2. Of or pertaining to the geometry of affine transformations. [OFR. *affin*, closely related. —*see* **AFFINED**.]

af-fined (ə-fīnd') *adj.* Archaic. 1. Joined by kinship or affinity. 2. Beholden; bound. [Fr. *affiné* < OFr. *affin*, closely related < Lat. *affinis*, related by marriage; *ad-*, to + *finis*, boundary.]

af-fin-i-ty (ə-fīn-tē) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. A natural personal attraction. 2. Relationship by marriage. 3. An inherent similarity between things. 4. A relationship or resemblance between biological species that implies a common origin. 5. A chemical attraction or force that causes the atoms of certain elements to combine with atoms of another element and remain in the combined state. [ME *affinite* < OFr. *affinite* < Lat. *affinitas* < *affinis*, related by marriage. —*see* **AFFINED**.]

Usage: *Affinity* may be followed by *of*, *between*, or *with*. Thus, affinity of persons, between two persons, or with another person. In technical writing, *affinity* (meaning "a chemical or physical attraction") is followed by *for*: a dye with an affinity for synthetic fabrics. In general usage *affinity* retains some sense of a mutual relationship, and therefore its use with *for* is less widely accepted. A majority of the Usage Panel accept this example: Even in school he showed an affinity for politics. But a large majority reject this example: Her affinity for living in California led her to reject a chance to return to New York.

af-firm (ə-fūrm') *v.* -firmed, -firm-ing, -firms, —*tr.* 1. To declare positively or firmly; maintain to be true. 2. To ratify or confirm. —*intr.* Law. To declare solemnly and formally but not under oath. [ME *affirmen* < OFr. *affirmer* < Lat. *affirmare*: *ad-*, to + *firmare*, to strengthen < *firmus*, strong.] —**af-firm-a-ble** *adj.* —**af-firm-a-bly** *adv.* —**af-firm-ant** *adj.* & *n.* —**af-firm-a-tion** (ăf'ər-mā'shən) *n.* —**af-firm'er** *n.*

af-firm-a-tive (ə-fūrm-ə-tiv) *adj.* 1. Affirming or asserting that something is true or factual. 2. *Logic*. Denoting a proposition in which the predicate states something about the subject to be true, as *apples have seeds*. —*n.* 1. An affirmative word or phrase. 2. The side in a debate that upholds a proposition. —**af-firm-a-tive-ly** *adv.*

Usage: The expressions in the affirmative and in the negative, as in *she answered in the affirmative*, are generally regarded as pompous. *She answered yes* would be more acceptable even at the most formal levels of style.

affirmative action *n.* Action taken to provide equal opportunity, as in admissions or employment, for minority groups and women.

af-fix (ə-fiks') *tr.v.* -fixed, -fix-ing, -fix-es. 1. To secure (an object) to another; attach: affix a label to a package. 2. To impute; attribute: affix blame to him. 3. To place at the end, append: affix a postscript. —*n.* (ăf'iks'). 1. Something that is attached, joined, or added. 2. A word element, such as a prefix or suffix, that can only occur attached to a base stem, or root. [Med. Lat. *affigere*, freq. of Lat. *affigere*: *ad-*, to + *figere*, to fasten.] —**af-fix-a-ble** *adj.* —**af-fix'er** *n.*

af-fla-tus (ə-flā'təs) *n.* A creative impulse; inspiration. [Lat. p.p. of *afflare*, to breathe on; *ad-*, toward + *flare*, to blow.]

af-flict (ə-flīkt') *tr.v.* -flicted, -flict-ing, -flicts. To inflict physical or mental suffering upon; cause grievous distress to: "The second pain which will afflict the souls of the damned in hell is the pain of conscience" (Joyce). [ME *afflighen* < Lat. *affligere*, to cast down; *ad-*, to + *figere*, to strike.] —**af-flict'er** *n.* —**af-flic-tive** *adj.* —**af-flic-tive-ly** *adv.*

af-flict-ion (ə-flīk'shən) *n.* 1. A condition of pain, suffering, or distress. 2. A cause of pain, suffering, or distress.

af-flu-ence (ăf'lū-əns) *n.* 1. A plentiful supply of material

goods; *w.*

3. A flow

af-flu-ent

adj. 2. Co

or river t

tributary,

affluere, i-

ently *adv.*

af-flux (ăf'

an *afflux* i-

ere, to flo-

af-ford (ə-f

have the fi

2. To be a

lunch. 3. T

incurring l

af-ford (ə-f

afford to b

exercise. [t

rian, to fi

af-for-est (ə

convert (of

to + *fores*

i-stā'shən, i-

af-fran-chis

To free fro

ties. [ME <

franchir, to

af-fray (ə-fri

-tray-ing, -h

esfreer, to d

af-fri-cate (ə

breath strea

articulation,

judge. [Lat.

fricare, to n

af-fric-a-tive

an affricate,

af-fright (ə-f

-frights. To:

of terror. 3.

af-frighan,]

af-front (ə-fri

sult intention

antly; confo

sight, or in

af-fronten < t

af-fu-sion (ə-

tism. [LLat.

funderere, to p

af-ghan (ăf'

2. Pashto. 3.

ched in col-

-adj. Of or

language. [Pa

af-ghan houn

having long,

ears.

af-ghan-i (ăf-g

af-lic-to-na-do

An enthusiast

p.p. of *afici*

Lat. *affecio*, a

af-field (ə-fēld'

2. Away from

a field.

af-fire (ə-fīr') ac

terested and ir

af-flame (ə-flān

excited and in

af-float (ə-flōt')

away from the

4. Awash; floo

ance. 6. Free c

couldn't keep it

af-flut-er (ə-flū

af-flut-er (ə-flōt')

process of bein

af-fore (ə-fōr'),

< OE *anforan*:

af-fore-ment for

tioned previous

af-fore-said (ə-f

af-fore-thought i-

beforehand; pre

af-fore-time (ə-f

or past time; pr

a-for-tho-ri (ā f

reason; all the r

greater logical n

a-toul of (ə-foul'

entanglement, or

become entangle

a-trald (ə-frād') a

not afraid of wo.



Afghan
A crocheted afghan



Afghan hound

ā pat / ā pay / ār care / ā father / b bib / ch church / d deed / ē pet / ē be / f fife / g gag / h hat / hw which / i pit / i pie / ir pier / j judge / k kick / l lid, needle / m mum / n no, sudden / ng thing / ō pot / ō toe / ō paw, for / oi noise / ou out / ōō took / ōō boot /

P pop / r roar / s se
zh vision / z about

uent (kōng'grō-ant, kōn-grō-ant) *adj.* 1. Corresponding. 2. *Math.* a. Coinciding exactly when superimposed: *congruent triangles*. b. Having a difference by a modulus: *congruent numbers*. [ME < Lat. *congruus*, p.p. of *congruere*, to agree.] —*congruently* *adv.* *u-ity* (kōn-grō-ant, kōn-) *n.* *pl.* -ties. 1. The quality of being congruous. 2. The quality or fact of being congruent. 3. A point of agreement.

uous (kōng'grō-ous) *adj.* 1. Corresponding in character or kind; appropriate; harmonious. 2. *Math.* *Congruous* < *congruus* < *congruere*, to agree.] —*congruously* *adv.* —*congruousness* *n.*

conical (i-kāl) *adj.* 1. Shaped like a cone. 2. Of or pertaining to a cone. —*n.* *Math.* A cone. [NLat. *conicus* < Gk. *konikos* < *konos*, cone.] —*conically* *adv.* —*conicalness* *n.*

projection or **conical projection** *n.* A method of projecting pictures of parts of the earth's spherical surface surrounding cone, which is then flattened to a plane having concentric circles as parallels of latitude and meridian lines from the apex as meridians.

section *n.* One of a group of plane curves, including circle, ellipse, hyperbola, and parabola, generated by intersection of a right circular cone and a plane.

phore (kōn'fōr, kōn-) *n.* A specialized hypha or filament in fungi, bearing conidia. [CONID(UM) + PHORE.] —*conidial* *adj.* —*conidialness* *n.*

fer (kōn'fēr, kōn-) *n.* Any of various predominantly green cone-bearing trees, such as a pine, spruce, hemlock, or fir. [NLat. *Coniferæ*, family name < Lat. *conifer*, bearing: *conus*, cone (< Gk. *konos*) + *ferre*, to bear.] —*coniferous* (kōn'fēr-əs, kōn-) *adj.*

ine (kōn'fēr-ən) also **conin** (kō'nin) or **conine** (nēn) *n.* A colorless liquid alkaloid, C₈H₁₇N, obtained from the poison hemlock and formerly used in the treatment of spasmodic disorders. [G. *Konin* < LLat. *conium*, hemlock.]

osis (kōn'fēr-ōsis) *n.* A pathological condition caused by inhalation. [G. *konis*, dust + *-osis*.] —*conious* (kōn'fēr-əm) *n.* Any of several poisonous plants of the genus *Conium*, including the poison hemlock. [LLat. *conium*, hemlock < Gk. *konion*.]

tion (kōn'fēr-ōn) *n.* Med. The diagnosis of a cone of tissue.

ject (kōn'jēk, kōn-) *adj.* 1. Based on or involving conjecture. 2. Inclined to conjecture. —*conjecturally* *adv.* **jecture** (kōn'jēk, kōn-) *n.* 1. Inference based on incomplete evidence. 2. A statement, opinion, or conclusion based on inference. —*v.* -tured, -turing, -tures. 1. To infer from inconclusive evidence; guess. —*intr.* To conjecture. [ME < Lat. *conjectura* < *conicere*, to infer, together + *jacere*, to throw.] —*conjecturably* *adv.* —*conjecturer* *n.*

Synonyms: conjecture, surmise, guess, speculate, presume, infer. These verbs mean to reach a conclusion or judgment. *Conjecture* implies that a conclusion is based on incomplete evidence. *Surmise* suggests a conclusion reached by intuition or by interpretation of slender evidence. *Guess* implies a haphazard attempt to answer a question or a problem and suggests substantial grounds for doubt. *Presume* implies a tentative conclusion reached on the basis of alternatives: *I guess I'll go to the movies*. *Infer* implies an orderly process of reasoning based on conclusive evidence, and is often interchangeable with *deduce*. *Presume* and *infer* apply to conclusions about which less doubt is implied. *Presume* involves taking a conclusion for granted. In careful usage it is limited to what is considered worthy of trust; thus the term implies assumption based on experience or knowledge. *Infer* involves reaching a conclusion by reasoning from evidence about which no doubt is necessarily suggested.

join (kōn'join) *tr.* & *intr.* *v.* -joined, -joining, -joins. 1. To become joined together; unite. [ME *conjoinen* < OFr. *joindre* < Lat. *conjungere* : *com*, together + *jungere*, to join.] —*conjoiner* *n.*

joint (kōn'join) *adj.* 1. Joined together; united. 2. Of or pertaining to, consisting of, or carried on by two or more joined or associated persons or things. [ME < OFr. *joint*, p.p. of *joindre*, to join.] —*conjointly* *adv.*

gal (kōn'jā-gāl, kōn'jō-') *adj.* Of or pertaining to marriage or the marital relationship. [Lat. *conjugal* < *conjugare*, to join in marriage.] —*conjugally* *adv.* —*conjugality* *n.* —*conjugate* (kōn'jā-gāt) *n.* Either of a pair of organisms, cells, or gametes undergoing conjugation. [Lat. *conjugare*, to join.] —*conjugate* (kōn'jā-gāt) *v.* -gated, -gating, -gates. —*Gram.* To give the various inflected forms of (a word or verb). 2. To join together. —*intr.* 1. *Biol.* To undergo conjugation. 2. *Gram.* To give the various inflected forms of a word or verb.

jugation *n.* 1. The act of conjugating. 2. *Gram.* To give the various inflected forms of a word, esp. a verb. —*adj.* (-gāt, -gāt'). 1. Joined together, esp. in a pair or pairs; coupled. 2. *Math. & Physics.* Inversely or oppositely related with respect to one of a group of otherwise identical properties, esp. designating either or both of a pair of complex numbers differing only in the sign of the imaginary term. 3. *Gram.* Of or pertaining to words having the same derivation and usually a related meaning. —*n.* (-gāt, -gāt'). 1. *Gram.* One of two or more conjugate words. 2. *Math. & Physics.* Either of a pair of conjugate quantities. [ME *conjugat*, joined < Lat. *conjugatus*, p.p. of *conjugare*, to join together : *com*, together + *jugare*, to join < *jugum*, yoke.] —*conjugately* *adv.* —*conjugative* *adj.* —*conjugator* *n.*

conjugated protein *n.* A compound of a protein with a nonprotein.

conjugation (kōn'jā-gā-shən) *n.* 1. a. The act of conjugating. b. The state of being conjugated. 2. *Gram.* a. The inflection of a particular verb. b. A presentation of the complete set of inflected forms of a verb. c. A class of verbs having similar inflected forms. 3. a. A process of sexual reproduction in which ciliate protozoans of the same species temporarily couple and exchange genetic material. b. Chromosome pairing in the first meiotic division. c. The fusion of gamete nuclei; karyogamy. d. The union of sex cells; syngamy. —*conjugational* *adj.* —*conjugationally* *adv.*

conjugation tube *n.* A slender protoplasmic tube in some algae through which gametes may move to sexually unite with other gametes.

conjunction (kōn'jūngkt', kōn'jūngkt') *adj.* 1. Joined together; united. 2. Designating adjacent successive tones of the musical scale. [ME < Lat. *conjunctus*, p.p. of *conjungere*, to join together. —see *CONJOIN*.] —*conjunctive* *adj.*

conjunction (kōn'jūngkt' shən) *n.* 1. a. The act of joining. b. The state of being joined. 2. A simultaneous occurrence in space or time; concurrence. 3. *Gram.* In some languages, one of the parts of speech comprising words such as, in English, *and*, *but*, *because*, and *as*, that connect other words, phrases, clauses, or sentences. 4. *Astron.* The position of two celestial bodies on the celestial sphere when they have the same celestial longitude. —*conjunctional* *adj.* —*conjunctionally* *adv.*

conjunctional (kōn'jūngkt' shən) *n.* *pl.* -vas or -vae (-vè). The mucous membrane that lines the inner surface of the eyelid and the exposed surface of the eyeball. [ME < Med. Lat. (*membrana*) *conjunctiva*, connective (membrane) < LLat. *conjunctivus*, connective. —see *CONJUNCTIVE*.] —*conjunctionally* *adv.*

conjunction (kōn'jūngkt' shən) *n.* 1. Joining; connective. 2. Joined together; combined. 3. *Gram.* a. Of or used as a conjunction. b. Serving to connect elements of meaning and construction in a sentence, as *and* and *moreover*. —*n.* *Gram.* A connective word, esp. a conjunction. [LLat. *conjunctivus* < Lat. *conjunctus*, p.p. of *conjungere*, to join together. —see *CONJOIN*.] —*conjunctionally* *adv.*

conjunctional (kōn'jūngkt' shən) *n.* *pl.* -vitis. *Pathol.* Inflammation of the conjunctiva.

conjunction (kōn'jūngkt' shən) *n.* 1. A combination of circumstances. 2. A critical set of circumstances; crisis.

conjunction (kōn'jūngkt' shən) *n.* 1. a. The act of conjuring. b. A magic spell or incantation. 2. Magic; legerdemain. 3. A solemn appeal or invocation.

conjure (kōn'jūr, kōn'jūr) *v.* -jured, -juring, -jures. —*tr.* 1. To call upon or entreat solemnly, esp. by an oath. 2. To summon (a devil or spirit) by oath, incantation, or magic spell. b. To cause or effect by or as if by magic. c. To call to mind; evoke: *a fragrance that conjures up images of the Old South*. —*intr.* 1. To practice magic, esp. legerdemain. 2. To summon a devil by oath, incantation, or magic spell. 3. *Obs.* To conspire. [ME *conjuren* < OFr. *conjurare* < Lat. *conjurare*, to swear together : *com*, together + *jurare*, to swear.]

conjuror also **conjuror** (kōn'jūr-ər, kōn'jūr-) *n.* One who practices magic or legerdemain.

conk (kōngk) *Slang.* *n.* 1. The head. 2. The nose. 3. A blow, esp. on the head. —*v.* -conked, -conking, -conks. —*tr.* To hit, esp. on the head. —*intr.* 1. To fall suddenly: *The engine conked out*. 2. To fall asleep instantly: *conked out early*. 3. To faint; pass out. [Orig. unknown.]

conk (kōngk) *n.* A hard, shelllike fruiting body of a fungus, esp. of the genera *Polyporus* and *Fomes*, found growing on tree trunks. [Perh. alteration of *CONCH*.]

conk (kōngk) *n.* A hair style in which the hair is straightened, usually by a chemical process. —*tr.* -v. -conked, -conking, -conks. To straighten (kinky hair) usually by a chemical method. [Perh. alteration of *congolene*, a substance for straightening hair.]

conman *Slang.* A confidence man.

con (kōn) *v.* & *n.* Variant of *con*.

con (kōn) *v.* & *n.* Variant of *con*.

con (kōn) *v.* & *n.* Variant of *con*.

con (kōn) *v.* & *n.* Variant of *con*.

con (kōn) *v.* & *n.* Variant of *con*.

con (kōn) *v.* & *n.* Variant of *con*.

con (kōn) *v.* & *n.* Variant of *con*.

con (kōn) *v.* & *n.* Variant of *con*.

con (kōn) *v.* & *n.* Variant of *con*.

con (kōn) *v.* & *n.* Variant of *con*.

con (kōn) *v.* & *n.* Variant of *con*.

con (kōn) *v.* & *n.* Variant of *con*.

con (kōn) *v.* & *n.* Variant of *con*.

con-nat-u-r-al (kō-nāch'ər-əl, kō-) *adj.* 1. Innate; inborn. 2. Related or similar in nature; cognate. [Med. Lat. *connaturalis* : Lat. *com*, together + Lat. *naturalis*, by birth. —see *NATURAL*.] —*con-nat-u-r-al-ity* (-ə-rāl'itē) *n.* —*con-nat-u-r-al-ly* *adv.* —*con-nat-u-r-al-ness* *n.*

connect (kō-nēkt') *v.* -nected, -necting, -nects, —*tr.* 1. To join or fasten together; link; unite. 2. To associate or consider as related: *no reason to connect the two events*. 3. To join to a communications circuit. —*intr.* 1. To become joined or united: *two streams connecting to form a river*. 2. *Informal.* In sports such as baseball, to hit or make contact with the ball: *The batter connected for a home run*. [ME *connecten* < Lat. *connectere* : *com*, together + *nectere*, to bind.] —*connect-ed-ly* (-nēkt'əd-lē) *adv.* —*connect-ible*, *connect-able* *adj.* —*connect-er*, *connect-er* *n.*

connecting rod *n.* A rod linking rotating parts of a machine in reciprocating motion connecting the crankshaft of an automobile to a piston.

connection (kō-nēkshən) *n.* 1. a. The act of connecting. b. The state of being connected. 2. Something that connects; link: *a weak connection in the circuit*. 3. An association or relationship: *no connection between the two crimes*. 4. The logical ordering of words or ideas; coherence. 5. The relation or association of a word or idea to the surrounding text; context: *In this connection let me say this*. 6. A person with whom one is associated, as by kinship, interests in common, or marriage: *used his connections to land a job*. 7. a. The meeting of various means of transportation for the transfer of passengers. b. A line of communication between two points in a telephone or similar wired system. 8. *Slang.* a. A narcotics dealer. b. A narcotics purchase. —*connectional* *adj.*

connective (kō-nēkt'iv) *adj.* Serving or tending to connect. —*n.* 1. Something that connects. 2. *Gram.* A word, such as a conjunction, that connects words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. 3. *Bot.* The tissue of a stamen that forms the division between the two lobes of an anther. —*connectively* *adv.* —*connective-ly* *adv.*

connective tissue *n.* Tissue arising chiefly from the embryonic mesoderm, including mucous, fibrous, reticular, adipose, cartilage, and bone tissue, characterized by a highly vascular matrix structure and forming the supporting and connecting structures of the body.

connect time *n.* *Computer Sci.* The elapsed time during which a user of a remote terminal is connected with a time-sharing system.

con-nex-ion (kō-nēkshən) *n.* Chiefly Brit. Variant of *connection*.

conning tower *n.* 1. The armored pilothouse of a warship. 2. A raised, enclosed observation post in a submarine, often used as a means of entrance and exit. [CON.]

con-nip-tion (kō-nip'shən) *n.* *Informal.* A fit of anger or other violent emotion; tantrum. [Orig. unknown.]

con-niv-ance also **con-niv-ence** (kō-niv'əns) *n.* 1. The act of conniving. 2. *Law.* Knowledge of and tacit consent to the commission of an illegal act by another.

con-niv-er (kō-niv'ər) *tr.* -nived, -niving, -nives. 1. To feign ignorance of or fail to take measures against a wrong, thus implying tacit encouragement or consent. 2. To cooperate secretly. 3. To conspire; plot. [Lat. *conivēre*.] —*con-niv-er* *n.* —*con-niv-er-y* *n.*

con-niv-er-y (kō-niv'ər-ē) *n.* Variant of *connivance*.

con-niv-er-y (kō-niv'ər-ē) *n.* Variant of *connivance*.

con-niv-er-y (kō-niv'ər-ē) *n.* Variant of *connivance*.

con-niv-er-y (kō-niv'ər-ē) *n.* Variant of *connivance*.

con-niv-er-y (kō-niv'ər-ē) *n.* Variant of *connivance*.

con-niv-er-y (kō-niv'ər-ē) *n.* Variant of *connivance*.

con-niv-er-y (kō-niv'ər-ē) *n.* Variant of *connivance*.

con-niv-er-y (kō-niv'ər-ē) *n.* Variant of *connivance*.

con-niv-er-y (kō-niv'ər-ē) *n.* Variant of *connivance*.

con-niv-er-y (kō-niv'ər-ē) *n.* Variant of *connivance*.

con-niv-er-y (kō-niv'ər-ē) *n.* Variant of *connivance*.

con-niv-er-y (kō-niv'ər-ē) *n.* Variant of *connivance*.

con-niv-er-y (kō-niv'ər-ē) *n.* Variant of *connivance*.

con-niv-er-y (kō-niv'ər-ē) *n.* Variant of *connivance*.

con-niv-er-y (kō-niv'ər-ē) *n.* Variant of *connivance*.

con-niv-er-y (kō-niv'ər-ē) *n.* Variant of *connivance*.

con-niv-er-y (kō-niv'ər-ē) *n.* Variant of *connivance*.

con-niv-er-y (kō-niv'ər-ē) *n.* Variant of *connivance*.

con-niv-er-y (kō-niv'ər-ē) *n.* Variant of *connivance*.



conning tower

be / f fife / g gag / h hat / hw which / i pit / i pie / i pier / o toe / o paw, for / oi noise / ou out / oo took / oo book

p pop / r roar / s sauce / sh ship, dish / t tight / th thin, path / th this, bathe / ü cut / ü urge / v valve / w with / y yes / z zebra, size / zh vision / a about, item, edible, gallop, circus / æ Fr. feu, Ger. schön / ü Fr. tu, Ger. über / KH Ger. ich, Scot. loch / N Fr. bon.